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Message Text

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TAGS: PARM, MNUC, NATO

SUBJECT: ERW PRESS GUIDANCE

REF: STATE 090978 (DTG 080234Z APR 78)

1. REFTEL GIVES PRESS GUIDANCE IN FORM OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS PREPARED FOR USE IN WASHINGTON IN CONNECTION WITH PRESIDENT'S DECISION ON ERW. FOLLOWING FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND BACKGROUND USE IS MATERIAL PREPARED FOR DEFENSE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION REFERRED TO DOD BY WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY CONCERNING HOW NATO WILL DEAL WITH WARSAW PACT TANKS WITHOUT THE NEUTRON WEAPON.
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2. BEGIN TEXT.

QUESTION: HOW WILL NATO DEAL WITH WARSAW PACT TANKS WITHOUT THE NEUTRON WEAPON?

ANSWER:

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FLEXIBLE RESPONSE

NATO STRATEGY OF FLEXIBILITY IN RESPONSE IN FORWARD

DEFENSE CALLS FOR NATO DEFENSE TO EMPLOY WHATEVER MEANS ARE NEEDED TO DEAL WITH AGGRESSION. NATO HAS FOR SOME YEARS NOW STRESSED DEVELOPMENT AND FIELDING OF SUFFICIENT NON-NUCLEAR ANTITANK MEANS TO PERMIT NATO TO DEAL WITH ATTACK BY ARMOR. THESE PROGRAMS ARE MOVING FORWARD; THE MOST RECENT EFFORT IS IN THE SHORT-TERM NATO DEFENSE INITIATIVES AGREED IN 1977 FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN 1978; ONE OF THE THREE PROBLEM AREAS STRESSED WAS MEETING THE ARMOR THREAT THROUGH CONVENTIONAL MEANS. THE LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM NOW BEING DEVELOPED IN NATO ALSO DEALS WITH LEVELS AND EFFECTIVENESS OF NATO CONVENTIONAL ANTIARMOR CAPABILITIES IN THE FUTURE. IN THE EVENT THAT THE BATTLE GOES NUCLEAR, HOWEVER, DIFFERENT MEANS WOULD BE NEEDED.

FIREPOWER

-- WE HAVE MADE MAJOR INCREASES TO OUR FIREPOWER IN NATO OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS AND INTEND TO DO MORE.

-- WE HAVE CONVERTED SUPPORT SPACES TO COMBAT SPACES AND THEREBY ADDED TWO COMBAT BRIGADES AND TWO ARTILLERY BATTALIONS TO OUR FORCES IN EUROPE.

-- WE HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE DENSITY AND CAPABILITY OR OUR ANTITANK WEAPONS WITH THE DEPLOYMENT OF TOW, DRAGON, AND COBRA/TOW.

-- WE PLAN TO DEPLOY THREE ADDITIONAL ARTILLERY BATTALION EQUIVALENTS BY THE END OF FY 1979.

-- IN ADDITION, EQUIPMENT MODERNIZATION, IMPROVED MUNITIONS, AND NEW TARGET ACQUISITION AND ELECTRONIC WARFARE SYSTEMS WILL INCREASE THE LETHALITY OF EACH FIREPOWER DELIVERY UNIT.

-- IN ANTICIPATION THAT A WAR IN EUROPE WOULD USE VAST QUANTITIES OF MUNITIONS AND EQUIPMENT QUICKLY, WE HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED OUR WAR RESERVE MATERIEL STOCKPILE OBJECTIVES.

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-- AIR FORCE FIREPOWER HAS ALSO INCREASED. LAST
YEAR, WE REPLACED A WING OF F-4S WITH F-111S AND
DEPLOYED THE FIRST WING OF F-15S, INCREASING OUR
EUROPEAN-BASED FORCES BY 78 AIRCRAFT AND SIGNIFICANTLY

INCREASING OUR ALL-WEATHER CAPABILITY.

-- OUR PLANS TO EQUIP THE AIR FORCE'S 26 WINGS FULLY
AND TO MODERNIZE ITS RESERVES WILL ALSO INCREASE
NATO'S FIREPOWER.

SHORT-TERM INITIATIVES

AS ONE EXAMPLE, I DO HAVE SOME FIGURES ON ALLIED
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HOLDINGS OF ANTITANK GUIDED MISSILES. ON THE BASIS
OF ORDERS ALREADY PLACED OR ANTICIPATED, ALLIED
HOLDINGS OF ANTITANK GUIDED MISSILES WILL HAVE
INCREASED FROM THE END OF 1976 TO THE END OF 1978,
WHICH WE'RE HALFWAY THROUGH NOW, BY ABOUT 47,000 TO
A TOTAL OF ABOUT 193,000.

FORWARD DEFENSE

-- IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, OUR EMPHASIS WILL BE ON
IMPROVING OUR FORWARD DEFENSE AND FIREPOWER CAPABILITIES
DURING THE INITIAL PHASE OF A WAR IN EUROPE, IN ORDER
TO PREVENT THE WARSAW PACT FROM ACHIEVING A QUICK
BLITZKRIEG VICTORY.

-- WE ALSO MUST ENSURE THAT THE ALLIANCE CAN FIGHT
FOR AT LEAST AS LONG AS THE PACT, BE ABLE TO RESPOND
TO THREATS ON NATO'S FLANKS AND PROTECT THE SEA LINES
OF COMMUNICATION FROM THE UNITED STATES TO EUROPE.

-- AS AN IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE, WE PLAN TO PROCURE
ADEQUATE WAR RESERVE MUNITIONS, EQUIPMENT AND
SECONDARY ITEMS TO SUPPORT US FORCES.

ACTION PROGRAMS

-- OTHER STEPS WE ARE TAKING TO IMPROVE OUR
CAPABILITIES FOR FORWARD DEFENSE INCLUDE:

-- MOVING DEFENSIVE POSITIONS FORWARD WHERE TERRAIN
PERMITS;
-- STRENGTHENING COVERING FORCES;
-- UPLOADING AMMUNITION ON SELECTED COMBAT VEHICLES;
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-- CONSTRUCTION OF FORWARD AMMUNITION STORAGE SITES;
-- IMPROVING MINING CAPABILITIES; AND
-- ADVANCING THE DATE FOR INITIAL DEPLOYMENT OF A-10S TO EUROPE AND INCREASING THE NUMBER TO BE DEPLOYED THERE

IN PEACETIME.

-- THE POSSIBILITY OF REPOSITIONING SELECTED ALLIED UNITS IS UNDER STUDY AS PART OF THE NATO LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM.

MEASURES TO IMPROVE ANTIARMOR CAPABILITY -- LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM

-- NATO IS INCREASING THE READINESS POSTURE BY IMPROVING A WIDE RANGE OF DEFENSE CAPABILITIES ESPECIALLY IN ANTIARMOR UNITS AND AIRCRAFT CAPABLE OF DELIVERING MODERN AIR-SURFACE MUNITIONS.

-- PROGRAMS HAVE ALREADY BEEN APPROVED BY NATIONS WHICH INCLUDE INCREASES IN THE MID-TERM TO NATIONAL HOLDINGS OF TANKS, ANTIARMOR WEAPONS, MISSILES AND ARMED HELICOPTERS.

-- IN THE MID-TERM THESE INCLUDE PURCHASING ADDITIONAL TOW, SWINGFIRE, MILAN AND HOT LAUNCHERS AND MISSILES, ABOVE WHAT IS NOW PROGRAMMED FOR THE FUTURE. ADDITIONALLY, NATIONS WILL BE ASKED TO REPLACE OLDER TANKS WITH THE MODERN TANKS NOW ABOUT TO ENTER PRODUCTION.

-- FOR THE LONGER TERM WE ARE PROPOSING THAT AGREEMENT BE REACHED ON DEVELOPING A COMMON FAMILY OF ANTI-ARMOR WEAPONS. IT IS INTENDED THAT A PROGRAM FOR SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASING THE NATIONAL HOLDINGS OF MODERN AIR-SURFACE ANTIARMOR WEAPONS WILL BE

INTRODUCED ALONG WITH THE LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT OF THESE WEAPONS.

-- PROGRAMS HAVE ALREADY BEEN APPROVED TO INCREASE THE OPERATIONAL READINESS OF RESERVE UNTIS IN BOTH THE NEAR-TERM AND THE MID-TERM TIMEFRAME. ADDITIONALLY, THE POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING ADDITIONAL RESERVE

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BRIGADES IN THE LONG-TERM IS BEING STUDIED BY A
NUMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

US AND ALLIED COMMITMENT

-- WE HAVE ALREADY LAUNCHED A NUMBER OF PROGRAMS TO
COPE WITH NATO'S VULNERABILITIES. WE ARE DETERMINED

TO IMPROVE THE US ABILITY TO PROVIDE RAPID REINFORCE-
MENTS TO NATO. CURRENTLY, WITHIN 10 DAYS, WE COULD
AUGMENT OUR 5 2/3 DIVISIONS AND 28 TACTICAL AIR
SQUADRONS IN EUROPE BY LITTLE MORE THAN ONE DIVISION
AND 40 SQUADRONS. BY 1983, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO
ADD FIVE DIVISIONS AND 60 TACTICAL AIR SQUADRONS
IN THE SAME AMOUNT OF TIME.

-- ALONG WITH THE ALLIES, WE ARE EXPANDING OUR
ANTIARMOR CAPABILITIES AND ADDING TO OUR WAR RESERVE
STOCKS. THE US PLAN IS TO INCREASE ITS HEAVY DIVISIONS
TO 11 OF THE TOTAL 16 REGULAR ARMY DIVISIONS, ACQUIRE
ABOUT 5,000 TANKS AND 18;000 ANTI-TANK GUIDED MISSILES
FOR THE ARMY, AND PURCHASE ABOUT 1,500 TACTICAL
AIRCRAFT FOR THE AIR FORCE. OUR ALLIES THIS YEAR ALONG,
WILL ADD ALMOST 2,000 ANTI-TANK GUIDED MISSILE
LAUNCHERS AND 14,000 ANTI-TANK MISSILES TO THEIR
CAPABILITY IN CENTRAL EUROPE.
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IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS

-- SHOULD AGGRESSION OCCUR, THE MILITARY AIM IS TO
PRESERVE OR RESTORE THE INTEGRITY AND SECURITY OF
THE NATO AREA BY EMPLOYING SUCH FORCES AS MAY BE
NECESSARY WITHIN THE CONCEPT OF FORWARD DEFENSE.
NATO FORCES MUST BE PREPARED TO USE ALL CAPABILITIES
AT THEIR DISPOSAL (INCLUDING NUCLEAR WEAPONS) FOR
THIS PURPOSE.

END TEXT.

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